



*Message from Governor Linda Lingle
and
Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Statehood Day
August 15, 2008*

We send our personal greetings of aloha to all of our residents as we prepare to commemorate the golden jubilee of Hawaii's Statehood.

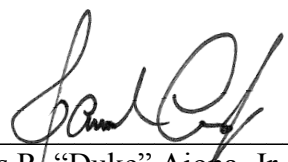
In 1959, Hawai'i became the United States of America's 50th state. Forty-nine years later, we observe this historical event with deep respect. Since joining the United States, Hawai'i has been able to maintain its diversity, culture, aloha spirit, compassion for those in need, and the preservation of our unique natural environment. Benefits of statehood include receiving federal funding for roadways, schools and hospitals, a political voice on national issues and a strong defense as an influential role in the affairs of the Asia-Pacific region.

Achieving statehood required the tireless efforts of numerous individuals over many years. In 1919, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, a congressional delegate for the Territory of Hawai'i, introduced the first of 33 bills aiming for statehood. Nearly 40 years later, Delegate John A. Burns successfully negotiated the admission of Hawai'i as a state. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower offered the people of Hawai'i a chance to vote for statehood and the measure was overwhelmingly approved.

The 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission will be commencing year-long commemoration activities as we look ahead to Hawai'i's future as a state in 2009. We hope you and your 'ohana reflect on all we have gained from statehood and honor those who helped make it possible.

Aloha,


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i